

The Aaron Hageman House  
Cortelyou Lane, near Franklin Park  
Franklin Township, Somerset County, New Jersey

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PHOTOGRAPHS  
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA  
District of New Jersey

Historic American Buildings Survey  
Seymour Williams, F.A.I.A., District Officer  
133 Central Avenue, Rahway, New Jersey

The Aaron Hageman House  
Cortelyou Lane, Near Franklin Park  
Franklin Township, Somerset County, New Jersey

Owners: (and occupants) Mr. and Mrs. Wendell W. Forbes

Date of Erection: About 1778

Architect: Unknown

Builder: Aaron Hageman (1757-1839)

Present Condition:

Original, very well maintained. Plaster ceiling of present dining room, and partition between parlors lately removed

Number of Stories:

Two and one-half and cellar in main unit; one and one-half in minor unit; one story lean-to kitchen

Materials of Construction:

Foundation - stone masonry

Exterior walls - timber frame; shingled on south, east, and north elevations of main unit, clapboarded on west elevation; all clapboarded on minor unit

Interior walls - lath and plaster on studding  
Chimneys - brick, built into inside of gable end walls

Roof - gable, with slate roofing (not original) on main unit and modern asphalt shingles on minor unit

Historical Data:

As early as 1703, it is said(a) Dollis, Denice, Adrian, and Jacobus Hageman, grandsons of Aaron

- (a) An account of the Hageman Family publ. in Snell, History of Hunterdon and Somerset Counties, N.J., (1881), p. 804, and Somerset County Historical Quarterly, V, 117.

the emigrant who died in 1672 in the Dutch town of Flatbush, Kings County, (Long Island), N.Y., appear to have located at Six Mile Run (now Franklin Park) and vicinity. Of these Adrian<sup>3</sup> Hageman purchased land there on the Somerset County side of the road from New Brunswick to Trenton ("Lincoln Highway", Route 27), built a house\*, and in 1745 was assessed for 350 acres, 23 cattle and 15 sheep(a).

This Adrian<sup>3</sup> Hageman of Somerset County, in his will dated 8 August 1754, proved 27 July 1762, states that "I have provided for all my sons except Simon and Benjamin by giving them a deed for lands, so now I give to my sons Simon and Benjamin the plantation of 350 acres where I live.\*\*

That farm extended from Route 27 along the southwest side of the road now known locally as Cortelyou Lane to a rear frontage on the road from Ten Mile Run to Middlebush. The son Benjamin received the southwest half on which were the buildings when the line of division was run(a).

Benjamin<sup>4</sup> Hageman, son and devisee above-named, by his first wife Gaertie (Gertrude) had issue baptized in the Reformed Dutch Church of Six Mile Run as follows: 1. Adrian in April 1757, of whom further; Benjamin 12 Sept. 1762, Marya 12 April 1767, Gertrude 26 March 1769, Jane 14 October 1770, Symon 7 November 1773, and William 16 May 1776. His wife having died 6 February 1777, aged 41 years(b), Benjamin<sup>4</sup> Hageman married 2ndly: Sara.....and had a son Isaac bapt. 28 Nov. 1779, and a daughter Gertrude 9 December 1781(c). He succeeded his father in the homestead and died 11 June 1804 aged 74 years(b).

\*House marked on map of Franklin Tp. publ. in Beers' Atlas of Somerset Co. 1873 as in poss. of J. Garretson, second house below Cortelyou Lane on the highway towards Franklin Park. It is not the house here surveyed.

\*\*Abstract of Wills, publ. in N.J. Archives, XXXIII, 169

(b) Gravestone inscriptions in Elm Ridge Cemetery (on the south side of Lincoln Highway, northeast of Franklin Park), published in Somerset Co. Hist. Quarterly III, 136-7.

(c) Baptisms, R.D. Ch. Six Mile Run, 1743-1805, publ. in same, VIII, pp. 219, etc.

By his will dated 19 January 1802 and proved 26 May 1804, this Benjamin Hageman of Franklin Township, Somerset County, after providing a room in his house and the interest of \$750 for his wife Sarah, and devising to his daughters Mary, wife of Jacob Skillman, Jane, wife of Cornelius Waldron, and Gertrude, wife of John Nevius \$1500 each, bequeathed the remainder of his real and personal estate equally divided among his six sons, Adrian, Benjamin, Peter, Simon, William and Isaac.

By a deed of division of the real estate of their deceased father, Benjamin Hageman abovesaid dated 16 April 1805, five of the sons Peter, William, Isaac, Simon and Benjamin Hageman conveyed to the sixth, Adrian Hageman, all being of Franklin Township, for \$6,650 the rear part\* of the farm, a tract of 143.40 acres bounding on the southwest side of Cortelyou Lane and the southeast side of the road from Ten Mile Run to Middlebush, the metes and bounds being as follows: Beginning at the fifth and northeastern corner of Peter Hageman's 193 acre lot and in line of John Van Cleef; thence along his line N. 52 deg. 50 min.; thence N. 53 deg. W. 24.78 to the Middlebush Road; thence along his line S. 54 deg. E. 59.80; thence S. 35 deg. 30 min. W. 11.75; thence N. 36 deg. 30 min. E. 25.15 to the place of beginning.

This Adrian<sup>5</sup> (Aaron) Hageman, baptized in April 1757 in the Reformed Dutch Church of Six Mile Run, died 21 April 1839 aged 83 years, per gravestone in the Elm Ridge cemetery(b). He married, after intentions announced 29 May 1778, Francis Wyckoff who was born 7 May 1756 and died 17 September 1830, daughter of Jacob and Agnes (Van Nostrand) Wyckoff(d), and

\*Confirmation of our identification of the house here surveyed appears in a secondary source, viz. --"Aaron Hageman came into possession and owned for a time the rear parts of the tract which extended to Middlebush Road, and built on it. It is now (1867-1902) owned by Abraham Voorhees, president of the State Bank at New Brunswick." See reference (a). The name appears variously as Adrian Hageman and Aaron Hageman in reference (c), the latter as anglicised surviving.  
(d) Streeter, The Wyckoff Family in America (1934) p. 294

evidently then built the house (here surveyed) on the rear part of his father's farm, that part being afterwards confirmed to him by the Deed of 16 April 1805 above cited. Aaron Hageman enlisted as a private in Somerset County militia in the Revolutionary War of 1776-1783, and became a sergeant on the same. #

The children of this Aaron and Frances (Wyckoff) Hageman, born in this house and baptized at the Six Mile Run Church were: Gerty b. 14 July 1779 who died 14 Dec. 1842 unmarried; Jacob bapt. 4 Aug. 1782, d. 16 Dec. 1793; two sons b. and d. 1786; Benjamin bapt. 27 Jan. 1788, of whom further; two sons b. and d. 1790; Agnes, bapt. 14 Oct. 1792, d. 23 Sept. 1794; Wyckoff bapt. 8 Nov. 1795; Aaron bapt. 10 June 1798, and Peter bapt. 1 Oct. 1800 who d. 17 Apr. 1869(c).

Aaron<sup>5</sup> Hageman abovesaid, of Franklin Township, by his will dated 31 December 1830 and proved 21 May 1839 devised "To my son Benjamin the Farm on which he now lives containing 125 acres, provided he pays to my daughter Gertrude the sum of \$625 in six months after my death"; to son Wyckoff a farm of 120 acres whereon he then lived, 65 acres of which testator had purchased of Peter Quick and 38 of which were to be taken off the southwest corner of "the homestead farm", this son to pay \$540 to the said Gertrude; and to son Peter the residue of the real estate, he to pay \$660 to her.

Benjamin<sup>6</sup> Hageman, baptized 27 January 1788 in the Reformed Dutch Church of Six Mile Run, eldest surviving son of Aaron Hageman, was living in the paternal homestead in 1830 (then containing 125 acres) and came into possession of the same in 1839, by the terms of his father's will above recited. By his wife Seyche Voorhees, who died 27 July 1833(e) aged 46 years and eight months, this Benjamin Hageman had issue: -

#Wm. S. Stryker, Official Register of the Officers and Men of New Jersey in the Revolutionary War, publ. 1872, pp. 465 and 613.

(e) Gravestone in Voorhees-Nevins Burial Ground near Laird's Corner, Middlebush Road. See Somerset County Historical Quarterly, V, 295.

Aaron b. 10 Nov. 1808, d. 10 Sept. 1841, Peter V., Francis b. 11 Apr. 1813, d. 11 Sept. 1843, Maria, Jacob W., Ellen and Gertrude(d).

By a deed of 7 April 1830, Peter A. Voorhees and wife Mary (who lived on the adjacent farm of her great grandfather Ryke Suydam) conveyed to Benjamin<sup>6</sup> A. Hageman abovesaid, a 20 acre tract off the southeast corner thereof, bounded northwest by Nine Mile Run (brook), which by addition squared out the recntrant angle in the rear line of grantee's farm(f).

By deed of 21 August 1834, Benjamin<sup>6</sup> A. Hageman of Franklin Township sold to Ferdinand S. Schenck (g) of same place, for \$4,567.50, the farm then comprising some 90 acres, on which stands the house (here surveyed) of his father Aaron Hageman.

From Schenck the same farm passed to Benjamin I. Smith of North Brunswick Township, Middlesex County, by deed of 28 November following, the consideration money being \$5,600, and evidently he occupied the place. By deed of 1st April 1867, the Estate of Benjamin I. Smith late of Franklin Township, deceased, (by three commissioners appointed by the Orphans' Court to divide his lands among his heirs) conveyed to Abraham Voorhees of New Brunswick(h)

- (f) Mr. Boyd Fullerton of "Rycklaver Farm", Middlebush Turnpike, writes under date 9 May 1940, "Peter A. Voorhees, my great grandfather, married Maria Suydam in 1825, lived in the Suydam house, I believe, until 1851 when he built my present home. P.A.V. sold 20 A. of his purchase to Benjamin A. Hageman in 1830, and that 20 A. is now part of the Forbes tract but has no buildings on it."
- (g) Dr. Ferdinand S. Schenck of Six Mile Run, b. 11 Feb. 1790 in Millstone, same Twp.; d. 15 May 1890; studied medicine in Somerville and N.Y.C.; practiced in Six Mile Run where he purchased a farm a short distance west of the church in 1814; member of State Legislature 1829-31; U.S. Congress 1833-36; State Constitutional Convention 1844; Judge of Court of Errors and Appeals 1845-1857; a Trustee of Rutgers College. (Snell, Hist. of Hunterdon & Somerset, p. 598; and Somerset Co. Hist. Quart. VI, 260-261.
- (h) Abraham Voorhees, President of the State Bank at New Brunswick. See Snell op. cit. 804, supra.

On March 24, 1902, Martha J. Voorhees of the City of New Brunswick gave her deed conveying to Benjamin Young of Franklin Township the same 90 acre farm, reciting the title from Benjamin I. Smith to Abraham Voorhees.

By deed of 1st May 1903, Benjamin Young and wife Anna M., of Franklin Township, Somerset County, conveyed to Mary H. Hoagland of same place 19.5 acres being the northwest end of the farm, describing this part as bounded southwest by grantee's land formerly of Peter A. Voorhees, northwest and northeast by (Cortelyou Lane) "the public road leading from the Middlebush Road to the Franklin and Georgetown Turnpike" and southeast by other lands of grantor.

The same Benjamin Young, widower, sold the remaining 70 acres of this originally Hageman farm to Irving Hoagland, both being of Franklin Township, by deed of 1st February 1905, describing this as having a frontage of some 2140 feet on the southwest side of the public road above mentioned.

By deed of 22 June 1934, the estate of this Irving Hoagland, deceased, late of Franklin Township, by the Executors conveyed to Boyd Fullerton of the same place, (q.v. in footnote, page 4) the same farm as containing 71.207 acres. Finally, by deed of 18 October 1937, Mr. Fullerton and his wife Anna M. Fullerton, conveyed to Wendell W. Forbes and his wife Lilyan F. Forbes, all of Franklin Township, the same farm, and these grantees occupy the place at the time of our survey of the venerable house in 1939.

#### Bibliography:

A search of title in Somerset County records by Thomas J. Riley, H.A.B.S. abstractor, May 1940

Lewis D. Cook  
Supervising Historian

Approved:

Seymour Williams  
SEYMOUR WILLIAMS, F.A.I.A.  
District Officer

TRW 10/2/40